

Figure 4

ABSTRACT

SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR MEASURING TRAFFIC FLOW

5 A method and apparatus for determining the vehicular
traffic flow includes a position monitor in a
telecommunications network which assembles and processes
position data from mobile telephones to determine traffic
flow. The position of each mobile telephone within the
10 system is determined at intervals and the likely route and
speed determined with reference to a stored road atlas.
The traffic flow is predominantly determined from data
received from mobile telephone handsets which have
requested traffic information. These handsets are likely
15 to be travelling in vehicles, thereby giving greater
accuracy to the traffic flow measurement. In addition,
the mobile telephone handsets requesting traffic
information are reconfigured to provide more accurate
data, such as by broadcasting update signals at a greater
rate than usual.